

REMARKS

This is responsive to the office action, dated April 14, 2008. An RCE and petition for a one-month extension of time is included herewith, along with their respective fee costs.

Claims 28-62 have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection under 35 USC 112 of several of those claims moot. Claims 1-27 are now pending in the present application, and amendments to the several independent claims are presented herein. Based upon the amendments presented herein and the discussion below, applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

All of the claims stand rejected over either Bertachi or Bertachi in combination with Gallagher. Bertachi discloses a system wherein the modification of the functionality of a typical home location register (HLR) is implemented with additional capabilities to allow for the translation between protocols. Gallagher, while appearing more centralized as the Examiner correctly notes, also discloses a system wherein the an entire HLR, with call by call status and user by user information, must be maintained. (Gallagher, HLR 206 and VLR 208, col. 4, lines 2-24, col. 6, lines 36-40, Figure 7).

In these prior art systems, the converter acts as a proxy. Specifically, if the home network and the network on which the user is roaming used the same protocol, the roaming network would just contact the HLR on the home network without a converter. Because the networks use different protocols, systems like Gallagher build a virtual home location register. The virtual home location register operates on all the details of the information from each user. It has the full complexity of a home location register, analyzes the information, and then regenerates another message with commands to the home location register. It needs to store states and process messages at the same level of detail as the real HLR.

In the present invention, the translation is transparent. As seen, for example, in Figure 11 of the present specification, the HLR and VLR of the two disparate networks remain fully functional, and the translation function is isolated. As indicated in Figure 6, all that the converter need do in most cases is address translation so that the message to authenticate a roaming user is sent to the HLR of the home network. In this manner, the translation does not require that all the HLRs and VLRs in the different networks be reprogrammed and redesigned.

Claim 1 as now amended recites that the authorization from the HLR is issued directly from the home register database to said computer on the second network. The converter does not parse the message and then regenerate a new one from a virtual HLR on the target network.

Claims 8 now recites that the converter employs a single entry to represent plural subscribers that have roamed to the first network. As is clear from Figure 6, because the converter is not operating like a VLR or an HLR, all the converter needs to do is get the messages to the proper switching point or home location register on the proper network. All users roaming from a first network to a second network are treated the same from the point of view of the converter. Gallagher, on the other hand, requires separate recordkeeping and state information for each call from each user.

Independent claims 15 and 22 similarly now recite that the converter is implemented on a different computer, independent of the HLR. Accordingly, these claims are now believed to be patentable. All of the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In conjunction with this amendment the undersigned has petitioned for an extension of time and has paid the requisite fee. It is believed that no other fees are due with the present amendment. However, should it be determined otherwise, the commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees due with the present amendment to Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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